



NEWS RELEASE

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For more information contact
Alice Neve, Saint Paul Public Library
651.266.7425 or alice.neve@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Saint Paul Public Library Librarian Appointed to the Andrew Carnegie Award Committee

Charlene McKenzie, Rondo Community Outreach Library Supervisor, has been appointed to the Andrew Carnegie Award Committee of the Association of Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association. The Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Children's Video, supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, was awarded for the first time in 1991 to honor the most outstanding video production for children released during the previous year. Charlene is one of eight professionals nationwide (plus a chair) appointed to this committee.

The Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Children's Video was established by the Carnegie Corporation of New York as part of the ALA-Carnegie Quality Video for Youth Project and is awarded through a Carnegie endowment. The Carnegie Medal is presented annually to an American producer for the most outstanding video production for children (up to age 14) released in the United States in the previous calendar year.

Charlene begins her work as a member of this committee at the Midwinter ALA Conference in Philadelphia in January 2008. This two year appointment ends after the Annual Conference in the Summer of 2009.

An active member of the American Library Association since 1998, McKenzie has served on the New Members Round Table (NMRT) and has been a member of the Inter Library Cooperation and Networking Section (ICAN) of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA). McKenzie has also served on the International Relations Committee of the Association of Library Service to Children (ALSC) for three years and chaired the committee from 2005-2007. During this time she gave leadership to the publishing of two bibliographies, "Growing up Latino" and "Growing Up Around the World", and presented these at two national conferences.

A study released in October 2003 by the Kaiser Family Foundation, *Zero to Six: Electronic Media in the Lives of Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers*, reported the observation that "children age zero to six spend as much time with TV, computers and video games as playing outside" and "43 percent of those under two watch TV every day, and 26% have a TV in their bedroom." One way our profession has responded is by providing high quality video selections for children. The Carnegie is one award that gives librarians the confidence in knowing that they are making the very best video productions available to parents and educators.

Other ALSC Award committees include the Newbery, Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, Pura Belpre, and Siebert committees.